

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1136
Appropriations

(Delegate Boafó, *et al.*)

Human Services - Youth Services Bureaus - Funding (Youth Services Bureau
Restoration Act)

This bill requires the Governor, beginning in fiscal 2026, to appropriate at least \$4.8 million annually to fund eligible youth services bureaus (YSBs). Each YSB must receive at least \$200,000 annually for each local jurisdiction providing matching funds. The local governing body that provides matching funds for a YSB must provide funds directly to the YSB. The bill also repeals the requirement that a YSB provide alternative leisure activities and makes other changes relating to YSBs. By December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) must submit a specified report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. **This bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No impact in FY 2025. No overall effect on State expenditures to the extent funding is provided from the existing appropriation to the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF), as discussed below. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2026.**

Local Effect: Grants to YSBs in Baltimore and Prince George’s counties increase beginning in FY 2026 compared with funding received in FY 2024; local expenditures increase for these counties to provide matching funds for the additional grants provided, as discussed below. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Services Provided by Youth Services Bureaus

Under current law, a YSB is a community-based entity that is operated to (1) provide community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and youth development; (2) ameliorate conditions that contribute to delinquency, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and family disruption; and (3) function as an advocate of youth needs.

To be eligible to receive State funding, a YSB must provide, at convenient hours and free of charge or at a reasonable rate based on the client's family income:

- individual, family, or group counseling;
- referral and information services;
- crisis intervention, including intervention relating to youth suicide prevention;
- alcohol and drug abuse assessment and referral services by staff who have received specified assessment and referral training;
- informal counseling; and
- in accordance with the needs of the community and subject to the availability of funds, (1) tutoring; (2) alternative leisure activities; (3) employment assistance; (4) community education, including training and information relating to youth suicide prevention; (5) aftercare services; and (5) other specialized services.

Under the bill, references to drug and alcohol abuse are replaced with drug and alcohol *use disorder*. The requirement that staff who provide alcohol and drug use disorder assessment and referral services receive training from the Office of Education and Training for Addiction Services or from any other qualified entity as determined by the Maryland Department of Health is repealed. The requirement that a YSB offer alternative leisure activities is also repealed.

Funding for Youth Services Bureaus

Under current law, the State and local government must jointly fund an eligible YSB. The State must provide 75% of the funding, as provided in the State budget. Each eligible YSB must submit a proposed annual budget to DJS. The proposed DJS budget must list the eligible YSBs and estimate the amount of State funds to be allocated to each YSB. A local governing body that provides matching funds for a YSB may choose to have State funds paid directly to the private sponsor or to the local governing body.

The bill repeals the requirement that the proposed DJS budget list eligible YSBs and their estimated funding. The bill also *requires* that the local governing body have State funds paid directly to the YSB (rather than to its private sponsor or the local governing body).

DJS is required to (1) monitor the operation of each YSB that receives State funding; (2) annually evaluate the effectiveness of each YSB; and (3) discontinue funding a YSB that is ineffective or that, for two years, fails to meet eligibility requirements.

Department of Juvenile Services Reporting Requirement

The annual report from DJS must include the following data from each SYB that receives State funding: (1) the number of children served, including details on age, race, ethnicity, gender, and gender identity; (2) the number of families served; (3) results of pre-post evaluations used by each YSB to evaluate improvements in behavioral issues; and (4) the percentage of youth served who, following the completion of services, did not enter or re-enter the juvenile justice system.

State Expenditures: In practice, DJS does not handle oversight or funding of YSBs. Although YSBs are not specifically funded as a program or line item in the budget, grants are generally provided from CCIF. The Governor’s Office for Children (recently reestablished as a freestanding office by [Executive Order 01.01.2024.05](#)) awards funds from CCIF to local management boards (LMBs). LMBs may distribute CCIF funds at their discretion.

There are eight YSBs operating in the State in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, and Prince George’s counties. In fiscal 2024, five YSBs received a total of \$925,032 from CCIF, with two YSBs receiving more than \$200,000. The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP, formerly the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services) provided a \$50,000 grant to the District Heights Family & Youth Services Bureau, for total YSB funding of \$975,032. Two YSBs did not receive any State funding.

The Governor’s fiscal 2025 budget as introduced includes \$24.2 million for CCIF, though no portion of these funds is mandated for YSBs. The GOCPP budget includes \$50,000 to provide a grant to the District Heights Family & Youth Services Bureau.

This analysis assumes that, in fiscal 2026, a minimum of \$4.8 million of CCIF funds will be restricted for YSBs and distributed as required under the bill. Thus, overall State expenditures are not impacted. However, mandating this funding for YSBs results in fewer funds being available for other programs funded from CCIF.

Under the bill, if each of the eight YSBs receive *at least* \$200,000, a total of *at least* \$1.6 million is distributed from CCIF to LMBs in fiscal 2026. To the extent that each YSB receives an additional \$200,000 for serving multiple jurisdictions, former YSBs resume providing services, or LMBs distribute additional funds at their discretion, CCIF expenditures increase accordingly.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill requires the Governor to provide at least \$4.8 million annually for YSBs, with *a minimum* of \$200,000 provided for each local jurisdiction providing matching funds. None of the eight YSBs appear to serve more than one jurisdiction at this time. To the extent that each of the YSBs in the State receives additional CCIF funds, YSB grant revenues and local expenditures increase accordingly.

As the bill requires a local governing body to have State funds paid directly to the YSB, local revenues are not affected. However, as a local governing body must provide 25% matching funds for each YSB, local expenditures increase to provide additional matching funds.

Compared with funding provided to YSBs in fiscal 2024, if at least \$200,000 is distributed to each YSB in fiscal 2026, YSBs in Baltimore and Prince George's counties receive additional grants. Baltimore County's YSB receives an estimated \$110,250 in additional grants. If each of the five YSBs in Prince George's County receive \$200,000, grants to the YSBs increase by \$758,344 in fiscal 2026.

Baltimore County expenditures increase by \$27,563 to provide additional matching funds, while Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$189,586 to provide additional matching funds.

Funding provided to the Baltimore City and Carroll County YSBs in fiscal 2024 exceeds the minimum \$200,000 per YSB required under the bill. To the extent similar funding is provided to these two YSBs in fiscal 2026, total funding from CCIF is estimated to be *at least* \$1,843,626 in fiscal 2026.

Additional Comments: The bill creates a mandatory funding minimum for all eligible YSBs and eliminates competitive funding for YSBs at the discretion of LMBs. This may result in funding being reduced or eliminated for other local programs that provide similar youth services. Additionally, local jurisdictions may not be able to provide an adequate match as required.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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